

when, by large bipartisan majorities in both chambers, we authorized this war. In an effort to appease far left-wing groups, some are attempting to distance themselves from their votes to authorize this policy, and from their own statements acknowledging what the intelligence information told us: Saddam Hussein posed a grave threat to America's national security.

What they're not doing is talking about the consequences of defeat. It is clear from respected national security figures like General Anthony Zinni that "This is no Vietnam or Somalia or those places where you can walk away. If we just pull out, we will find ourselves back in short order."

Additionally, even the Brookings Institution released a study that argues:

Iraq appears to have many of the conditions most conducive to spillover because there is a high degree of foreign "interest" in Iraq. Ethnic, tribal, and religious groups within Iraq are equally prevalent in neighboring countries and they share many of the same grievances. Iraq has a history of violence with its neighbors, which has fostered desires for vengeance and fomented constant clashes. Iraq also possesses resources that its neighbors covet—oil being the most obvious, but important religious shrines also figure in the mix. There is a high degree of commerce and communication between Iraq and its neighbors, and its borders are porous. All of this suggests that spillover from an Iraqi civil war would tend toward the more dangerous end of the spillover spectrum.

We cannot forget that Iran and Syria are fostering instability in Iraq. Al-Qaida and Hezbollah are both active there as well.

As I have mentioned before, but have not heard answered from the critics, we know that chaos in Iraq could draw in others in the region. For example, Saudi Arabian officials have threatened "massive intervention to stop Iranian-backed Shiite militias from butchering Iraqi Sunnis." A Kurdish secession would likely cause Turkish intervention.

Does anyone in Congress disagree that failing in Iraq would be a dramatic setback in the war against terrorists? Iraq must not be divorced from its context—the struggle between the forces of moderation and extremism in the Muslim world. After all, al-Qaida has been in Iraq since before the U.S. invaded and has dedicated itself to fomenting sectarian violence there. Osama bin Laden referred to Iraq as "capital of the Caliphate," arguing that "[t]he most . . . serious issue today for the whole world is this Third World War . . . [that] is raging in [Iraq]."

Terrorism expert Peter Bergen has told us that a:

[U.S. withdrawal] would fit all too neatly into Osama bin Laden's master narrative about American foreign policy. His theme is that America is a paper tiger that cannot tolerate body bags coming home; to back it up, he cites President Ronald Reagan's 1984 withdrawal of United States troops from Lebanon and President Bill Clinton's decision nearly a decade later to pull troops from Somalia. A unilateral pullout from Iraq

would only confirm this analysis of American weakness among his jihadist allies.

Failure in Iraq will encourage further attacks against the United States and provide a base from which to plan and train for attacks.

I will remind my friends who pushed so hard for this legislation, and who cheered for votes on an immediate withdrawal, and the passage of the first security supplemental which the President correctly vetoed, if you are going to advocate a strategy for failure or a precipitous withdrawal, you have the responsibility to tell the American people what the consequences would be, and to tell them how you would respond. These are the burdens of leadership.

HONORING SENATOR TED STEVENS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, last August, TED STEVENS and DAN INOUE led a bipartisan group of Senators to China for a parliamentary visit. DAN, of course, was accorded great respect because of his winning the Congressional Medal of Honor during World War II. But it was TED STEVENS for whom the Chinese rolled out the red carpet. TED had flown with the Flying Tigers. He flew the first plane to land in Beijing after World War II ended, and the top Chinese leaders had not forgotten. They made more time for our delegation than they had for any other recent group of American visitors.

No one in our group, of course, was surprised to learn that TED STEVENS had flown risky missions and, for that bravery, earned the Distinguished Flying Cross. TED still has the cockiness, adventuresome spirit and attitude that distinguish most pilots. And he has the love of country that permeates those who fought in World War II. We see both qualities every day in the Senate.

For example, 2 years ago, when we were considering how to maneuver through five Senate committees legislation based on a National Academies report that would help America keep its brainpower advantage, TED was both unconcerned about committee prerogatives and impatient about getting the job done. "Let's form a select committee," he said many times. "You be the chairman of it." He said this even though he was then the most senior Republican in the Senate and I was nearly the most junior. The Senate never formed that select committee, but TED made sure the legislation passed because he thought it was important for our country.

I was Legislative Assistant to Senator Howard Baker in 1968 when TED was appointed to the Senate. He hasn't changed much in all that time, even though he is now the longest serving Republican Senator. In his first year, he was pushing amendments that would help Alaska Natives maintain their fishing rights. This year, he is still busy working on legislation cre-

ating additional rights for Alaska Natives. And in the 39 years between, he has snagged every dollar that comes within 50 feet for his Alaskan constituents—and some dollars that were farther away than that.

TED STEVENS is, I would say, above all, an institutionalist in the United States Senate. In other words, he sees a unique role in our democracy for the Senate, and he is one of a handful here who is determined to respect that role and make it work.

I suppose TED will have opposition when he runs for reelection in 2008. But, if he does, I wouldn't want to be that person. Last week, walking side by side with him to vote, I took the escalator when we got to the Capitol and TED literally ran up the stairs, two at a time.

It would be hard to identify a "More Valuable Player" in the U.S. Senate than TED STEVENS.

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I would like to honor a colleague and a good friend, Senator TED STEVENS, for becoming the longest serving Republican Member of the Senate. I am honored to serve in the Senate with this great Republican.

TED STEVENS' career in public service began long before he became a U.S. Senator. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during WWII, practiced law in Alaska, worked in the Eisenhower administration, and served in the Alaska House of Representatives where he eventually became majority leader. He became U.S. Senator in 1968 and has served the State of Alaska in the Senate for over 39 years. His longstanding public service career truly demonstrates his devotion to this country.

Just like his famous Hulk tie, TED has a bullish tenacity that has made him one of the most effective Members in the Senate. He is a stalwart representative for his State of Alaska. Representing a State over 4,000 miles from the Nation's Capital, Senator STEVENS has sacrificed time with his six children and wife to serve in the Senate. Coming from a large family myself, I appreciate the strength and commitment his family has displayed over the years.

During my trips to Alaska, I always leave impressed by the spectacular landscape and TED STEVENS' hard work in his State. His work has helped many Alaskan towns receive clean running water and has enabled many children to receive a quality education. His persistence in the Senate also has provided Alaska with oil pipelines, which have brought tremendous revenue to Alaska and provided our Nation with a safe, domestic energy source.

TED STEVENS' work as a Senator has also gone beyond the borders of Alaska. During his 35-year tenure on the Appropriations Committee, he has tirelessly persevered to keep America ready and prepared. He has ensured our troops have the good equipment, training, and pay they deserve. His efforts

have also ensured funds for military research on some of our Nation's most pressing diseases.

I thank Senator TED STEVENS for his leadership and contributions to public service for the people of Alaska and all Americans. I honor him not only for his length of service but more importantly, his quality of service. I wish him and his loved ones the best of health for many years to come, and I congratulate him on his outstanding achievement.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, it is a great pleasure to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Senator TED STEVENS on becoming the longest serving Republican in Senate history. While this is a milestone to celebrate, the true cause for celebration is not TED STEVENS' decades of service to his party or to this Chamber but his lifetime of service to our Nation.

It is a record of service that began long before TED STEVENS came to the Senate nearly four decades ago, long before his contributions in the Alaska Legislature in the earliest days of statehood, long before he helped establish our 49th State at the Department of the Interior during President Eisenhower's administration. At just 19 years of age, with his country under attack and freedom in jeopardy around the world, TED STEVENS joined the Army Air Corps in 1943, flying support missions for the legendary Flying Tigers. That courage to take the risks and that willingness to step forward to meet the challenges are the foundation of his character and of his service.

I have been privileged to work alongside this Senator on the Homeland Security Committee. On every issue we confront, TED STEVENS demonstrates great knowledge and a total commitment to protecting our Nation and our people.

Alaska and Maine are separated by a great many miles, but our two States have much in common, including spectacular scenery, and rugged, self-reliant people. Our States also share a connection to the sea that is central to our history and our future. From the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act of 1976 to his work to better protect marine mammals, TED STEVENS demonstrates again and again a deep commitment to the hard-working people who sustain countless coastal communities and an abiding respect for the natural resources that bless us all.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I would like to honor an esteemed colleague with whom I have had the privilege of serving in this body for the past 9 years.

As many others have already observed, Senator STEVENS is an institution in Alaska, the Senate, and in the United States. Our President pro tempore, already the longest serving Republican in the Senate, served our Nation heroically in World War II and worked previously in the Justice and Interior Departments. In the latter po-

sition, Senator STEVENS was an instrumental part of bringing statehood to Alaska—the State of Alaska literally is partly his creation.

Senator STEVENS and I share concerns about issues important to America but particular to the Pacific Northwest. Our States, with vast Federal land holdings, play a key role in energy resource exploration and development crucial to building viable and plentiful domestic energy supplies. We share views on ensuring local and State governments and communities have primacy in handling matters of direct impact on them. Both Idaho and Alaska are home to thriving indigenous populations, and we both work to ensure that they have their voices heard in Congress.

Idaho and Alaska have other similar Pacific Northwest resource and environmental issues. Senator STEVENS shares my care for and attention to these issues. He is an advocate for work to restore salmon fisheries and rural community development. I have had the pleasure to work with him on promoting the Pacific Northwest Salmon Recovery Fund and drinking water infrastructure needs for rural Alaska. He is a tireless defender of the interests of Alaskans and one of the greatest tourism promotion resources for the State.

I have always appreciated Senator STEVENS' strong voice and steady leadership in the Senate. He has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to our military and against terrorism. He understands the enemies we face here and abroad and has spent many decades standing strong for his convictions, relentlessly pursuing funding for a strong military to defend our country and our heritage of liberty and freedom.

I admire Senator STEVENS' strong history of bipartisanship highlighted by his long friendship with the senior Senator from Hawaii, Mr. INOUE. Their working and interpersonal relationship stands as a testament to what can be accomplished when we set party bickering aside and focus on our jobs to which we were elected—helping America remain the envy of the world.

We share an alma mater, and I am pleased to call him a colleague in the Senate. I am proud to honor the Senior Senator from Alaska, in his 39th year of public service as a Senator. Congratulations, and thank you for your service.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Senator TED STEVENS of Alaska for becoming the longest serving Republican Member in the history of the U.S. Senate. Senator STEVENS is a true leader in the Senate. Whether he is making sure our soldiers have the best equipment in the field of battle or developing dynamic legislation to transform our Nation's communications laws, Senator STEVENS has always been a man of action.

Service to the United States and to his home State of Alaska has been Sen-

ator STEVENS' lifelong mission. To put his dedication to our country in perspective, Senator STEVENS has been a public servant for longer than I have been alive. At no stage of his career has he ever shied away from confronting the challenging issues of the day. In 1943, at the age of 19, he left college to answer the call of his country. Flying transport planes over the Himalayas in support of the Flying Tigers of the 14th Air Force, First Lieutenant STEVENS proved himself as a leader. In recognition for his service and bravery, he was awarded several medals, including two Distinguished Flying Crosses.

Following the war, TED STEVENS returned to college where he received degrees from UCLA and Harvard Law School. In 1953, he was appointed U.S. attorney for Fairbanks. Three years later, he moved to Washington, DC, to serve in the Department of the Interior for President Eisenhower. In 1964, TED STEVENS was elected to the Alaska House of Representatives, and during his second term in office, he became the majority leader. In 1968, he was appointed to fill Senator Bartlett's seat in the U.S. Senate. In 1972, he was elected to serve a full term in that seat, and, as we know, the rest is history.

During the last 39 years, Senator STEVENS has done more for the people of Alaska and the United States than most could fathom. Always willing to address challenging issues in a bipartisan fashion, Senator STEVENS stands by his principles and does what he thinks is right regardless of which side of the aisle agrees with him. He led the charge for Alaska's statehood and has made remarkable contributions to the health and safety of the United States. As a testament to their belief in TED STEVENS' leadership, the people of Alaska have elected, and reelected, Senator STEVENS—never by less than 67 percent of the vote in any election.

When I came to Washington in 1994, it did not take me long to learn who TED STEVENS was and to admire him as a leader. When I joined the Senate 7 years ago, my admiration for Senator STEVENS grew. Who couldn't admire a man who dons a Hulk tie when he prepares for large legislative battles? On a serious note, since 2001, Senator STEVENS and I have worked closely on a number of important issues. For example, in 2005 when Senator STEVENS became chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, he recognized the need to address how to maintain U.S. competitiveness in today's global economy. I was honored that he selected me to chair the Subcommittee on Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness. Through the work of this subcommittee, Senator STEVENS, myself, and others developed bipartisan legislation to maintain and improve our country's innovation in the 21st century. This legislation, the America COMPETES Act, recently passed the

Senate by an overwhelming vote of 88 to 8. Senator STEVENS' leadership on competitiveness legislation serves as a good reminder of how he has addressed important issues in a forward-thinking manner throughout his six decades of public service.

Addressing the Nation's competitiveness is just one example of Senator STEVENS' innovative thinking. When he became chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Senator STEVENS recognized that our communications laws were grossly outdated. Through a series of hearings, listening sessions, and a desire for bipartisan cooperation, Senator STEVENS developed a bill that would have encouraged competition in the communications market and fostered an environment conducive to future innovation. Although this bill did not become law, I am proud to have worked with Senator STEVENS on this important piece of legislation.

I greatly admire Senator STEVENS. He sets an example, for both Republicans and Democrats, of a successful Senator. He is a leader, a man of his word, and someone whom you know you can count on with nothing more than a handshake. I look forward to working with Senator STEVENS for many years to come and would like to congratulate him for a lifetime of accomplishments.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, it is a pleasure to be a part of this celebration of Senator TED STEVENS's service in the Senate. For those of us who know him, it is more than taking a moment to congratulate him as he becomes the longest serving Republican Senator in the history of the Senate. It is an opportunity to acknowledge all he has done to stand up for the State of Alaska. It is also a chance to take note of the example he provides of leadership and the way he has always put the needs of the people of Alaska at the very top of his work agenda in the Senate. That is why, in 2000, TED was named the Alaskan of the Century.

TED is a remarkable guy, and I don't think any Senator is more tied to the day-to-day life of the States we represent and the hearts of the people back home than he is. There are a lot of reasons for that, not the least of which is the certainty Alaskans have that the needs of their State are in good hands because TED STEVENS is championing their cause.

TED is one of our great environmentalists and it is a philosophy he puts into practice every day in thought, word, and deed. Whenever I think of him, I think of all he has done and continues to do to protect and preserve the natural beauty of Alaska. It is a wonderful State that I have been privileged to visit at TED's invitation. I have always said that God saved some of his best handiwork for Wyoming. Having seen Alaska, I think he did a good job there too.

If you ask me and those who have come to know him through the years,

we will tell you that TED is a man of action. He says what he means and he means what he says. He works hard for the things he believes in, and in the end, I don't think anyone is better at getting results. That is because TED knows it is a lot more important to get things done than to get them said. You won't find him content to just give speeches. After all is said, and said with great force, TED puts his time and effort where his mouth is as he rolls up his sleeves and gets to work.

TED not only knows and loves the terrain of Alaska, he loves showing it off too. That is why he puts so much of himself into promoting the Kenai Tournament. This great Alaskan tournament gives all who take part a chance to enjoy the fantastic fishing of Alaska, but it is also a great fundraiser that helps provide the funds that are needed to restore and improve the habitat of the salmon in Alaska.

Here in the Senate, TED has also worked quietly on many bills that were drafted to preserve wild salmon. Whether it is protecting his home State on the floor or promoting it here and back home, TED STEVENS is the voice of Alaska.

Another thing Wyoming and Alaska share is our rural environment. TED understands the unique needs of rural life better than any Senator I know, and he has been a tireless worker on transportation and communication issues. He worked hard to preserve universal service so people in both our States would have phone service at a reasonable rate. That effort meant a great deal not only to the people of our States but to those who live in other rural areas across the United States as well.

As I have come to know TED, I have developed a great appreciation for his ability to pick up on the nuances and details of the issues we take up on the Senate floor. He is a fast study, and he is not afraid of any issue, no matter how complicated and complex it is.

Another thing we all think of whenever we think of TED is that distinctive voice of his. His voice has the same power that his words bring to the debate, and it is that unique way of speaking of his that gets everyone's attention and usually their agreement too.

Through his years in the Senate, TED has compiled an incredible record for the people of his State. He has won the hearts of Alaskans, and on election day, people from all over the State make it a point to vote for him. He is not just their Senator, he is also a bit of a superhero, too.

Speaking of superheroes, which are near and dear to TED's heart, in the comics, whenever Dr. Banner faces a difficult challenge that requires superpowers, he turns into the Incredible Hulk. On the Senate floor, if the Incredible Hulk faced a challenge that required superpowers of persuasion and reason, he would probably turn into TED STEVENS.

Congratulations, TED. We are proud of the record you have established in the Senate. Thank you for your leadership, the unique strengths and abilities you bring to our work, and most of all, thank you for the gift of your friendship.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I am very pleased to help recognize Senator TED STEVENS as the longest-serving Republican in the history of the U.S. Senate. Senator STEVENS has represented the Last Frontier for nearly 40 years, during which he has become one of the most respected lawmakers and gentlemen in Congress. For a large majority of his time in Congress, Senator STEVENS served with my predecessor, the late Senator Strom Thurmond, the Senate's previous longest-serving Republican. Now that the record is broken, I am certain Senator Thurmond would be pleased to know his good friend, TED STEVENS, will carry on the great tradition of service to our Nation. I am honored to serve alongside Senator STEVENS and congratulate him on this momentous occasion.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I wish today to congratulate Senator TED STEVENS on becoming the longest serving Republican Senator in U.S. history. Senator STEVENS has served in the Senate for over 38 years, and this milestone is a lasting tribute to his outstanding record for the people of Alaska and for the people of America. On a personal note, I have always enjoyed working with Senator STEVENS, and it has been a true privilege to collaborate with him on some of the most important issues facing our great Nation—including energy, healthcare, and national defense.

Senator STEVENS' service to the United States didn't begin when he stepped inside this Chamber; rather, his service began decades earlier—during some of the most harrowing days of World War II.

Senator STEVENS was part of the "greatest generation" who fought and won that global struggle for freedom—flying a C-47 in the China Burma India theater. Incredibly, over 1,000 of Senator STEVENS' fellow airmen died "flying the hump" and elsewhere in the Chinese Burma India theater—a sobering reminder of the high price of freedom. For his heroic efforts, Senator STEVENS later received two Distinguished Flying Crosses and two Air Medals, as well as the Yuan Hai medal awarded by the Republic of China.

After the war, Senator STEVENS completed his education at UCLA and Harvard Law School and then moved to Alaska, which was then a U.S. territory. In the city of Fairbanks, Senator STEVENS practiced law for several years, until he came to Washington, DC, to serve in the Eisenhower administration and also to lobby for Alaska's admittance into the Union—a mission that succeeded in 1959.

When Senator STEVENS returned to Alaska, he ran for—and won—a seat in the Alaska House of Representatives

and later became house majority leader. Then, in December 1968, Governor Walter J. Hickel appointed him to fill a vacancy in the U.S. Senate. In 1970, the voters of Alaska ratified that choice by electing Senator STEVENS to finish that term in a special election and then reelecting him six more times, always by overwhelming margins.

Senator STEVENS' achievements are legendary in this Chamber—including, but not limited to, chairman of the Senate Rules Committee, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate—putting him third in line for the Presidency from January 2003 to January 2007. For his many decades of service, Senator STEVENS has received and accepted numerous honors—including having the Anchorage International Airport named after him. Our entire country has been enriched and improved by his hard work, dedication, and leadership.

I say this not as a distant observer but as an up-close witness to his achievements. Back in 1993, when I first arrived in the U.S. Senate, I was one of only seven female Senators, and if the Senate was a men's club, then the Appropriations Committee was its inner sanctum. There was not a single woman on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, but that is where I wanted to serve.

I explained to Senator STEVENS—who was then the ranking member of the committee—that Texas has more Army soldiers than any other State, more Air Force air men and women stationed in Texas than any other State, and our defense industry builds everything from fighter aircraft to Army trucks to artillery systems to sophisticated electronics equipment for the Pentagon. Therefore, it was absolutely essential that a Senator from Texas serve on that committee. After some careful thought, Senator STEVENS agreed and welcomed me to the committee. Since that time, he has been a valuable mentor to me—not to mention a passionate advocate for Alaska and America.

And when I say passion, I really do mean passion. Senator STEVENS has been known to show dramatic performances on the Senate floor, keeping wandering eyes focused on the urgent issues that need to be addressed. One day, during a markup in the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator STEVENS, who chaired the committee at the time, grew very animated and laid down the law. When a frustrated senior Senator told Senator STEVENS that “there was no reason to lose your temper,” Senator STEVENS glared back and responded, “I never lose my temper. I always know exactly where I left it.”

But if Senator STEVENS has a temper, he also has a compassionate heart. I will never forget when a group of protestors gathered outside of the Appropriations Committee conference to demand increased funding for breast cancer research.

One particularly agitated advocate got in Senator STEVENS' face and said, “If men were dying of breast cancer, you wouldn't think twice about increasing the funding.” Needless to say, those words made quite an impact on Senator STEVENS but probably not what this advocate anticipated.

When Senator STEVENS walked back into the conference, he repeated the charge and then looked around at his mostly male colleagues. He knew that at least six of them suffered from prostate cancer. He also noticed that the bill they were considering didn't fund prostate cancer research. But thanks to the excellent suggestion of the woman in the hallway, he was going to advocate breast cancer research and prostate cancer research. Senator STEVENS was determined to become a leader on these issues, and over time, that is certainly what he has become.

For all of these reasons, and many more, it has been a true honor to serve with Senator STEVENS. I congratulate him once again on becoming the longest serving Republican Senator in U.S. history. I look forward to serving with him for years to come.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, Senate colleagues of Senator TED STEVENS are grateful that a remarkable U.S. Senate historical landmark provides us an opportunity to honor one of the greatest Senators in history as he continues to supply vigorous and significant leadership for our country.

We recognize, today, that TED STEVENS has served longer than any other Republican Party Senator, and that record for longevity of service will continue to mount with each new day of Senate history.

I would like to believe that the early schooling of TED STEVENS at Public School No. 84 in Indianapolis was a strong foundation for his later success. I enjoyed School No. 84 for 2 years, a few years after TED had progressed.

Our lives came together again in 1976 when TED chaired the National Republican Senatorial Committee and I was the Indiana Republican candidate against a three-term incumbent.

Under TED's leadership, Jack Danforth, John Heinz, Jack Schmitt, Malcolm Wallop, Sam Hayakawa, John Chafee, ORRIN HATCH, and I were elected: a class of eight freshmen Republican Senators. The overall Senate count after the 1976 election was 61 Democrats, 38 Republicans, and Independent Senator Harry Byrd, thus highlighting TED's recruitment achievement.

But times changed, and Howard Baker became majority leader after the Republican majority was established in the 1980 election. When Howard retired 4 years later, five Republicans sought the majority leader position in an election procedure requiring the candidate with the lowest vote to retire after each ballot. Senators Jim McClure, PETE DOMENICI, and I retired in that order before Bob Dole, another Senate lion, defeated TED STEVENS in a close vote.

All of us rejoiced when the GOP won a Senate majority again and Senator STEVENS became President pro tempore of the Senate. In this role, he became even more vigorous in boosting the Senate's institutional role and in underlying the responsibilities of each Senator.

Throughout his unfailing attention to overall Senate duties, TED has been a Senator for Alaska on every day of every year. His legislative achievements that have boosted Alaska are legendary and continue during each appropriations cycle.

Alaskans recognized Senator STEVENS as the most prominent Alaskan of the 20th century in a poll taken in his State.

He also led Alaskan and U.S. Senate attention to the interests Alaska and the United States have in the Pacific Ocean and in prominent Pacific rim countries such as China, Japan, and Russia.

I have been privileged to attend Aspen Institute conferences with TED and to participate in legislative meetings with Chinese delegates that he has organized in Washington.

He has long been an advocate for health and physical fitness. This encourages his friends to observe that he has the opportunity to serve with us for many years to come.

I thank my good friend, Senator TED STEVENS, for his personal thoughtfulness and for so many great experiences, together, during his recordbreaking tenure in the Senate. I look forward to many new opportunities to be with him and to work with him for the benefit of our country.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise to honor a distinguished colleague, Senator TED STEVENS, who is celebrating a major milestone—today becoming the longest serving Republican in Senate history.

Appointed to the U.S. Senate in 1968 and elected to finish out the term 2 years later, STEVENS has since been reelected to the Senate six times, never receiving less than 67 percent of the vote in any election.

During his 38 years in the U.S. Senate, Senator STEVENS has been Chairman of four full committees and two select committees, assistant Republican whip, and the President Pro Tempore Emeritus.

As one of the most effective Senators, Senator STEVENS has been an ardent supporter of our national defense, serving as either chairman or ranking member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee since 1980. A champion of our Armed Forces, he has ensured that our servicemembers have the equipment, training, and pay necessary to be prepared to take on those who threaten our national security.

Mr. President, I congratulate Senator STEVENS on reaching this historic milestone today. I am honored to call Senator TED STEVENS my colleague but prouder to call him my friend.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge a man who has

dedicated almost 40 years of his life to the service of his constituency. Senator TED STEVENS was appointed to represent Alaska in the Senate in 1968 and has done so in a way that the citizens of his State have reelected him six times since. Senator STEVENS is currently the longest-serving Senator in the history of our party and a steadfast representative for Alaskan conservative values.

As a young man Senator STEVENS served his country honorably during World War II. A member of the Flying Tigers of the Army Air Corps' 14th Air Force, he is also twice a recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroism in aerial combat. Senator STEVENS is in excellent company as the first recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross was Captain Charles A. Lindbergh, who also set a few records in his own time.

I am especially thankful for the work Senator STEVENS has done to help aid the people of Louisiana. Through his position as Chairman in the last Congress and currently Vice-Chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee he has worked tirelessly on important legislation to our State. Especially noteworthy are the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act, which included provisions dedicated to the aid of the fishing industry in Louisiana following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and his essential support of legislation to get Louisiana its fair share of Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas revenues.

It has been an extraordinary experience to work with as accomplished a legislator as Senator STEVENS in my time in the Senate. I thank him for his service to the citizens of this great country.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about my long-time great friend, advisor, and colleague, Senator TED STEVENS of Alaska, who just became the longest serving Republican Senator in the 218 year history of the United States Senate.

I have worked with Senator STEVENS on a wide array of matters, but none more closely than national security and defense issues. Senator STEVENS and Senator INOUE exemplify that extraordinary group of veterans, largely of World War II distinction and experience, that led the Senate I joined 28 years ago. They found the time to teach the new Senators, inspiring them to gain the experience to someday take their places of responsibility in the Senate. I owe a great deal of gratitude to that generation, and particularly to TED.

He has loyally served the men and women of the Armed Forces throughout his long Senate career, particularly through his leadership positions on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

My good friend has compiled a remarkable record on national security, ranging from complex issues of global strategy all the way down to the very

basic pay and quality of life issues for the men and women in uniform and their families. His own distinguished record in World War II as an aviator provides special insights into military matters.

Military matters, however, are not the only field in which the senior Senator from Alaska has invested his time and passion. Senator STEVENS has also fought hard to find ways to meet America's energy needs, offering the extraordinary resources of his own State to meet these demands. I think back time and time again when Senator STEVENS has taken to the Senate floor urging his colleagues to fully address America's demand for energy. Dressed in his trademark "Hulk" tie, he was a sight to behold and quite a force to reckon with. If only Congress had listened to Mr. STEVENS a decade or two ago, not just limited to Alaska issues, but towards a broad world view on energy, America might not be so dependent on foreign oil today.

Senator STEVENS truly loves Alaska. I remember one codel trip in particular. A few years back, Senator STEVENS had escorted a small group of Senators, making stops along the way, up to Prudhoe Bay, one of the closest points to the Arctic. Senator Symms, our former colleague from Idaho, and I decided we had enough learning for the day. So, unwisely, we chose to play hookie and dashed from the group for an impromptu plunge in the frigid waters of Prudhoe Bay while the other Senators looked on in disbelief. We were quite a sight as we crawled ashore frozen to the bone.

Despite this experience, I am proud to say that Senator STEVENS hasn't held my rowdiness against me, as he has invited me back to Alaska over the years.

TED STEVENS is not only a great champion for Alaska, American energy, and our Nation's armed forces, but he is also a champion of the Senate. One of the most lasting legacies he has had on this special body, and one of the legacies he has imparted on me, is his remarkable record of work with new senators from both sides of the aisle. Throughout many years, Senator STEVENS has voluntarily stepped forward to counsel new colleagues about the history and intricacies of the legislative process in the Senate.

I am particularly indebted to him for helping me. Therefore, Mr. President, it is my honor and privilege to today congratulate my good friend, Senator TED STEVENS, on becoming the longest serving Republican in the Senate. Carry on, dear friend.

TRIBUTE TO LYNN CLANCY

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I recognize and honor my friend Lynn Clancy, who retired in January after 20 years of service as my State director. He is a friend to me, and he is a friend to North Dakota.

Over two decades as my State director, Lynn touched the lives of thou-

sands of North Dakotans. He handled countless casework requests and hundreds of speeches and appearances on my behalf. I could not have had a better ambassador.

Twenty years in itself is a lifetime of public service, but the 20 years that Lynn spent with me was really the culmination of a much longer career in service to the public. This is a man who genuinely lives on the tenant that it is best to do good to your fellow man. He devoted his life to helping other people.

Not many know this, but when Lynn joined my staff after my 1986 election, he was working as the right-hand man to the Catholic bishop of North Dakota, overseeing operations in the diocese. And that was after a long career serving North Dakota's farmers. So he came to work for me with an already long history of public service.

That public service began after Lynn graduated with an education degree from the State college in his hometown of Valley City. His degree in hand, Lynn left North Dakota for Turkey and England to teach high school on U.S. military bases.

After returning home to North Dakota, he went to work for the North Dakota Farmers Union, first as its education director and then assistant secretary-treasurer. About that time, he was elected to the North Dakota legislature as a representative from his hometown of Valley City.

Lynn later received an appointment as North Dakota's deputy commissioner of agriculture, before finally going on to work for the diocese. And that is where I found him.

Part of what drives Lynn is his affinity for the land, and his affinity for those people who are the stewards of the land. In North Dakota, those stewards are our farmers and our good friends, the first Americans.

Lynn shares a special bond with North Dakota's Native Americans. Leaders of the American Indian community liken Lynn's special qualities to that of a tribal elder. Over the years, he worked tirelessly to ensure that our tribes had equal access to all parts of our Federal and State government. His goal was always to make sure Native Americans were equal before the law.

In the 1990s Lynn was instrumental to the success of the Walking Shield Housing Project, which helped alleviate a housing crisis on the reservations of Spirit Lake, Fort Berthold, Standing Rock, and Turtle Mountain.

When he told me about his plans for retirement, Lynn said one of his greatest joys has been working closely with Native Americans, learning about their culture and experiencing their hospitality. So while it is true that Lynn is a naturally gentle and soft-spoken man, it is also true that North Dakota's Native Americans may not have a fiercer advocate than Lynn Clancy.

Lynn's devotion to the family farmer started with his own experiences on the